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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/031,109	01/09/2002	Arnab Sarkar	VFA-70871	6061
30764	7590	07/27/2004	EXAMINER	
SHEPPARD, MULLIN, RICHTER & HAMPTON LLP 333 SOUTH HOPE STREET 48TH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90071-1448			HOFFMANN, JOHN M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1731	

DATE MAILED: 07/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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EXAMINER

ART UNIT	PAPER
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40722

DATE MAILED:

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Commissioner for Patents

In response to applicant's phone call regarding the last Office action, the following corrective action is taken.
The period for reply of 1 MONTH set in said Office Action is restarted to begin with the mailing date of this letter.
The text of the last Office Action is enclosed.

7-22-04
John Hoffmann
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 1731

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1-14, drawn to an apparatus for making a fiber preform.

Group II, claim(s) 1-25, drawn to an apparatus for making a fiber preform

Group III, claim(s) 26-31, drawn to a method of making a fiber preform.

The inventions listed as Groups I-III do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: The expression special technical features is defined as meaning those technical features that define the contribution which each claimed invention, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art. The invention of claim 13 is obvious in view of Gilliland 4810276 (see below). Since it is obvious, it fails to have a contribution over the prior art. Therefore it has no special technical feature. Since it has no special technical feature, it is not linked to the other inventions so as to form a single general inventive concept.

Figure 1 of Gilliland has the support mandrel (20), the main deposition burner (24), and one or more auxiliary burners (25, 27, 29). Gilliland does not disclose the housing/chamber or the controller. It would have been obvious to have a housing/chamber over the apparatus so as to prevent external factors from influencing the process, and to prevent human operators from getting injured from accidental contact with the hot gases. It would have been further obvious to have the process shut off after the preform is made, otherwise it will never be finished. It would have been further obvious to have an automatic structure to shut off the process, so as to reduce human error in shutting it off too early or too late.

This application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention.

The species are as follows:

Specie A: the invention of the embodiment of figures 8-9

Specie B: the invention of the embodiment of figures 10-11,

Specie C: the invention of the embodiment of figures 12-14,

Specie D: the invention of the embodiment of figure 15,

Specie E: the invention of the embodiment of figure 16,

Applicant **is required**, in reply to this action, to elect a single species to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The reply must also identify the claims readable on the elected species, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

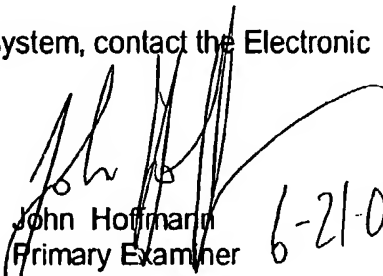
Art Unit: 1731

To summarize Applicant must first choose from among I, II and III, and then choose from among Species A, B, C, D, and E. Then Applicant must indicate which claims read on the elected invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Hoffmann whose telephone number is (571) 272 1191. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 7:00- 3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steve Griffin can be reached on 571-272-1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


John Hoffmann
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1731

6-21-04

jmh